## Message Text

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**ACTION ARA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SEC-01 JUSE-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FEA-01 /105 W

----- 022861

P R 152137Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9904
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

**UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1513** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR HO CS

SUBJECT: ODUBER DEFENDS LOPEZ ARELLANO

REF: SAN JOSE 1490

1. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS IN THE SAN JOSE PAPERS OF
APRIL 15 QUOTE PRESIDENT ODUBER DESCRIBING THE
ACCUSATIONS AGAINST LOPEZ ARELLANO AS "INFAMY"
AND AS SAYING HE WAS SURE LOPEZ WOULD COME OUT WITH A CLEAN
REPUTATION. IN AN INFORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE ODUBER ANNOUNCED
THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN
CHIEFS OF STATE, WHICH ODUBER WAS TO HOST, WOULD BE
POSTPONED BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT HONDURAN SCANDAL.
ODUBER REPORTEDLY COMMENTED THAT LOPEZ ACTED
CORRECTLY IN APPLYING THE TREATY SIGNED BY HONDURAS,
PANAMA, AND COSTA RICA ON THE BANANA TAX.
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2. PRESS DOVERAGE OF THE UNITED BRANDS/HONDURAN SCANDAL HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LIGHT AFTER THE FIRST DAY THE NEWS BROKE. COVERAGE HAS BEEN BASED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTING AND ONLY PLN-CONTROLLED "EXCELSIOR" CONTINUED TO REPORT ON THE SCANDAL ON ITS FRONT PAGES. EDITORIAL RESPONSE HAS LIKEWISE BEEN LIGHT. OPPOSITION DAILY "LA REPUBLICA" DISCUSSED THE AFFAIR TWICE IN ITS SIDE COLUMN ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE—IN THE FIRST INSTANCE STRESSING THE FREQUENT CORRUPTION OF LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS, IN THE SECOND INSTANCE PRAISING THE QUALITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF HONDURAN LEADERS ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE SCANDAL. TODMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESS CONFERENCES, BANANAS, TAXES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 15 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Camment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975SANJO01513 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750131-0797 From: SAN JOSE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750451/aaaabutj.tel Line Count: 76 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION ARA Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 SAN JOSE 1490 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: ShawDG

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 27 JUN 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ODUBER DEFENDS LOPEZ ARELLANO
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HO, CS, (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL), (LOPEZ ARELLANO, OSWALDO)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006